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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL
Bush Invites Erdogan to Washington - Hurriyet
TGS Chief Says Recent Terrorist Attacks Have Religious
Motives-Hurriyet
Ecevit to Leave Politics After the Elections - Hurriyet
A School to Train Terrorists in Damascus - Milliyet
Ecevit Leaves Politics - Milliyet
140 Prisoners to be Released from Guantanamo - Milliyet
General Ozkok: "Religion and Politics Together Create
Savagery - Sabah
Suicide Bombers Planned Attacks in Ankara - Sabah
Two Turks Returned from Guantanamo - Sabah
Bloody Weekend in Iraq - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS
General Ozkok: "Religion and Politics Should Not be Mixed" -
Cumhuriyet
Terrorists Attack: 5 Turkish Soldiers Die - Cumhuriyet
Ecevit Ends His Half-Century Political Adventure - Zaman
Government Acknowledges Bombers' Al-Qaida Connection - Zaman
US Brutality in Iraq - Yeni Safak
General Ozkok: "Attacks Motivated by Religion" - Radikal

BRIEFING

Bush Invites Erdogan to US: "Hurriyet" reports that PM
Erdogan has been invited to Washington by the Bush
Administration. The visit will take place in January, and
will be the first visit by Erdogan to the US as Turkish
Prime Minister.

General Ozkok Remarks: Speaking to the at the Romanian
National Day reception, TGS Chief General Ozkok said that
"there were religious motives behind the terrorist attacks
in Istanbul." Ozkok stressed that "religion and politics
should not be mixed." "Otherwise," he said, "savagery is the
result." "Recent developments have once again highlighted
the benefits of Ataturk's secularism," the general noted.

Ecevit's Decision to Quit Politics: All papers report that
DSP Leader Bulent Ecevit announced that he will quit
politics at the next party convention, which follows the
local elections in March 2004. Ecevit is not expected to
name an heir to lead the party after his resignation. In an
interview with Murat Yetkin in "Radikal," Ecevit said that
"the US might have played a role in the toppling of my
government." Ecevit speculates that the United States may
not have wanted his government to continue in power because
of its opposition to American policy in Iraq.

US Soldiers Kill 54 Civilians in Iraq: "Yeni Safak" reports
that after US troops kidnapped and raped around 30 Iraqi
women, the people of Samarra rebelled against US forces. In
order to halt the civil unrest, the paper claims, US troops
carried out a military operation in which 54 Iraqi
civilians were killed.

EDITORIAL OPINION:
Iraq; Campaign Against Terrorism

"The Second Phase"

Fikret Ertan noted in the Islamist-intellectual Zaman (12/2): "The US and the UK have designed a two-stage military policy for Iraq. The first phase was to occupy Iraq and topple Saddam. The second phase is to transfer authority to an Iraqi army and police force after a certain period of time. The first phase has been concluded, and was largely successful. Yet the second phase seems to be the main challenge for coalition forces. Security and stability are the two main issues in Iraq. . Nevertheless, the American and British forces did not make any changes in their long term planning for Iraq. They believe they can overcome the challenges in the course of time. Plans for the second phase are already underway, include the training of Iraqi police and army as well as the establishment of permanent military bases for the US and UK. . Given what we know about the implementation of the second phase of the operation in Iraq, we should realize that America and Britain are going to remain there for years. This is a direct and vital concern for Turkey."

"Impact of terrorism on foreign policy"

Sami Kohen wrote in the mass appeal Milliyet (12/2): "Syria used to shelter the PKK leadership and was notorious in its lack of cooperation on terrorism five years ago. Today, we see that Syrian authorities accepted Turkey's request to hand over the 22 terrorism suspects. . When the Turkish government began a rapprochement early this year toward the Syrian government, it was obvious that the Bush administration was not happy about it. Syria is on Washington's list of "rogue states." There has been strong speculation about a possible US operation against Syria. . It is very clear that the Bush administration is doing its best by exerting pressure on the Syrian regime to make sure that Damascus stops sheltering or supporting terrorism. However, Ankara and Washington have different approaches toward Syria despite their common stand against terrorism. In other words, on the issue of Syria, Turkey and the US have conflicting interests."

DEUTSCH